

Urban District of Dodworth.

Health Report for 1918.

DODWORTH,

June, 1919.

Gentlemen,—

The Local Government Board again direct that my annual report should be brief.

DEATHS.

The population given by the Local Government Board for estimation of death rate in 1918 was 2,990. The number of deaths of Dodworth residents including 7 in public institutions outside the township, was 55. The death rate per 1,000 persons living is 18·3. In 1917 we had 42 deaths, and in 1916 there were 46 deaths.

INFANT DEATHS.

There were 10 infants died under 12 months of age. The rate per 1,000 births is 106.

Six babies died of Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 1 Convulsion, 1 Difficult Labour, 1 Meningitis, 1 Gastro-enteritis.

BIRTHS.

The number of births in 1918 was 95. In 1915, 1916, 1917, there were respectively 93, 108, and 89 births. The rate for 1918 is 29 per 1,000 persons living.

The number of deaths ascribed to Influenza in 1918 was 13. Of these 1 died in May, 5 in July, 2 in August, 2 in Nov., and 3 in Dec.

There were 5 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The highest number previously recorded was 4 in 1906. In 1917 we had no deaths from this disease, which is also a record for us. Apart from Tuberculosis we had 16 deaths for Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

Infectious Diseases.

	Sc. F.	Diph.	Ent. F.	Puer.	Oph.	Meas.	Phsis.	Total.
1916	9 ...	1 ...	—	...	—	...	13 ...	1 ... 24
1917	2 ...	5 ...	—	...	1	...	221 ...	4 .. 233
1918	1 ...	— ...	1	...	2	...	14 ...	4 ... 22

INFLUENZA.

The most prominent feature of the health of Dodworth in 1918 was the Influenza epidemic which commenced in June, culminated in July and August, and continued into the new year.

The epidemic has appeared to me to be identical in symptoms with previous epidemics. I think that in every case I have found inflamed throat, but in no case very severe. Nearly all the patients have experienced headache and pains in limbs and back, with giddiness. This last symptom frequently persists for weeks after all other effects have disappeared. In fact I have reason to believe that the only departure from health in some very mild cases of Influenza may be a feeling of dizziness with slightly inflamed throat found on examination. A somewhat unusual symptom has been the frequent hemorrhages from nose and throat and lungs.

The main cause of the spread of the disease in Dodworth has certainly been infection from house to house—the infection carried by friends and sympathisers.

I impress on my patients the importance of keeping outside infected houses. The School also is a focus of infection, proved by the appearance of Influenza amongst children in isolated farm houses. On account of the incidence of Influenza amongst children we closed all the schools from Nov. 25th, 1918, to Dec. 7th, with a further extension to the Christmas holidays.

The Influenza deaths occurred during the following weeks (ending Saturdays)

	May 4.	July 13.	20.	27.	Aug. 3.	10.	Nov. 2.	9.	30.	Dec. 7.
Deaths	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	2

The ages at death from Influenza were

Years $1\frac{3}{4}$, 3, 3, 6, 10, 14, 27, 29, 40, 66, 76, 76, 80.

Eight who died were males and 5 were females.

We had a slight epidemic in the first months of 1918, with many cases, but only 1 death.

Housing.

We have found Housing Inspections futile during the last years of the war on account of the impossibility of getting orders carried out. So soon as one can hope to see practical results a thorough inspection will be made. We have many houses that ought to be demolished if it were not for the house shortage. In present conditions closing houses would but accentuate overcrowding.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR E. WHITE.

